

Special Feature: Japanese Language Classes throughout the Prefecture

An overview of the Japanese language instruction programs available in Tottori Prefecture.

① Sakaiminato Japanese Class (Sakaiminato City)

Japanese language classes in Sakaiminato started this past February in response to requests from local businesses hosting an increasing number of foreign technical trainees in recent years, from a city-based Japanese language program set up in 2018. Classes are offered in five terms, opening each season. Study takes place in groups led by volunteers, with each session focusing on a different theme, such as hospitals and disaster preparedness. Class coordinators provide instruction.



▲Coordinator leading the class

Hoang Thi Lien Chi
(Vietnam)



I like learning a lot about Japanese culture through games. I'm also always happy to make new Japanese friends. I'm here as a technical intern trainee at the moment, but I'd like to work in translation when I go back to Vietnam. To everyone who has the chance to study Japanese in Japan: Make the best of it and give it all you've got!



▲Today's theme is hospitals—looking for a hospital nearby!

② Japanese Study Group (Kurayoshi City)

Teruo Tamura,

Head of the Kurayoshi Japanese Study Group

This study group had its start in requests from the Central Tottori group of mothers from other countries known as the Tori Friends Network, who wanted to improve their understanding of the Japanese language. The Policy Division of the Kurayoshi City Civil Liberties Bureau opened Japanese language classes in the Jinken Bunka Center in 2013 with 90-minute sessions on alternating Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9pm. Study focuses on topics recommended by individual members. Students vary in level from beginner through advanced, and classes are always filled with laughter. Participants have been known to attend only a single session, on the idea that so long as they're in Japan, a little study is better than none—and such students are always welcome. Each session ends with the plan for the next one. In addition to study sessions, Tori Friends holds New Year's parties, flower-viewing excursions, and barbecues, and always expect a large turnout.



▲Japanese study session

